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Weekly Views

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner

“Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.” ~ Albert Camus (1913-1960)

Friday, September 12, 2008

The Research and Planning Division has completed the 2007 IDOC Juvenile Recidivism Report. They found that the 2007 juvenile recidivism rate is 34.0%. To view the report in its entirety, follow the link: [Juvenile Recidivism Rates, 2007](#).

Commissioner Buss visited the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility this week, addressing staff and touring several areas. He and Chief of Staff Dan Ronay were also taken into "custody" until they each raised at least \$250 for the SECC.

Attorney General Steve Carter held a press conference about the statewide initiative to address underage drinking and driving, teen date violence, and teen suicide prevention at Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility. This was followed by Joni Irwin, of the Jason Foundation, who held a training session at the facility to train staff members on youth suicide prevention.

Central Office had a successful SECC week as Lt. Governor Becky Skillman judged the Chili Cook-off and Executive Staff members were "locked up" until each raised \$250 for the SECC. Over \$4,000 was raised during the two events!

Pendleton Correctional Facility Superintendent Brett Mize presented a \$500 check to representatives of the Ovid Community Church. The donation represents proceeds from a fundraiser sponsored by the facility's American Legion Organization.

The IDOC and Social Security Administration are working on an MOU to allow offenders to apply for and receive duplicate social security cards within 120 days of release. IDOC will be the first state corrections agency to have such an agreement.

At Indianapolis Power and Light, The Gleaners Food Bank presented the Indianapolis Women's Community Re-Entry Center with a Community Spirit Award for the volunteer services they have provided to Gleaners over the past year.

Plainfield Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit recently held two fundraisers with food from Rally's and Arby's. The facility donated \$2,288 to the Villages Campaign and \$700 to the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation, which assisted many flood victims from the Indiana Department of Correction this summer. Five of those victims were staff at PCF.

Miami Correctional Facility staff recently rallied to support a fellow staff member who lost his home in a fire. Sgt. Rick Perdue lost his home and all of its contents in a fire Aug. 22. The staff made a total donation of \$1,058.21 to him and his family.

Two members of Scotland Yard, assigned to the training division, received a tour of the Indiana State Prison. Alan Hiscox and Steve Lorrigan said visiting the prison was the highlight of their trip to America.

The Shadyside Allstars Band performed for offenders at the Putnamville Correctional Facility in celebration of Labor Day.

This week, residents of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility assisted with the Transportation Expo & Snow Plow Roadeo at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. The residents assisted with setting up the Roadeo courses and equipment demos.

The Family Management Department at the Correctional Industrial Facility had a hamburger sale fundraiser this week. The sale generated approximately \$3,263.60. \$1,500 of this will be donated to charitable and community projects.

Several representatives of the Evansville Parole Office attended a two-day Security Threat Groups seminar for law enforcement, parole, probation, and other community partners. Topics discussed were gang recognition, internet pervasiveness, and safety.

This week, volunteers from Prison Fellowship provided more than 350 elephant ears to both offenders and staff of Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. Aramark provided the drinks for this event.

Residents of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility participated in a special program called Baby Think It Over. It allowed the residents to care for realistic baby dolls and gave them the idea of how fatherhood is a 24-hour job.

The Indiana State Prison had its first ever Offender Apprenticeship graduation this week. The U.S. Department of Labor presented 33 offenders with their apprenticeship certificates in the chapel.

A special, annual recognition picnic luncheon was held over the weekend for the more than 650 volunteers at Westville Correctional Facility. Multiple awards and prizes were given to the programs and volunteers.

One of the students at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility recently received her High School diploma. She will be released from the facility soon and will immediately begin college in pursuit of a nursing degree.